

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:	F. J. Chen et al.	Docket	13,042.5
Serial No.:	Not Yet Assigned	Group:	Unknown
Confirmation No:		Examiner:	Unknown
Filed:	January 8, 2002	Date:	January 8, 2002
For:	DUAL-ZONED ABSORBENT WEBS		

Preliminary Amendment

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner preliminarily amend the specification and claims of the instant application as indicated below.

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, line 1, insert the following as the first sentence of the application:

This application is a divisional application of application serial number 09/353,278 entitled "DUAL-ZONED ABSORBENT WEBS" filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 14, 1999, which application is a divisional application of application serial number 08/997,287 entitled "DUAL-ZONED ABSORBENT WEBS" filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 23, 1997, which application is a continuation-in-part of application serial number 08/821,483 entitled "DUAL-ZONED ABSORBENT WEBS" filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 21, 1997. The entirety of application serial number 09/353,278 is hereby incorporated by reference.

At page 36, line 1, insert the following omitted descriptions of Figures 13 and 14:

Figure 13 is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of this invention wherein the hydrophobic material comprises groups or tufts of hydrophobic fibers.

Figure 14 is a perspective view of an apertured nonwoven web of hydrophobic fibers useful for purposes of this invention.

At page 36, line 1, after the description of Figure 14 as amended above, please amend the next paragraph as follows:

(Amended) Figure [13] 15 is a graph of mean Rewet values and 95% confidence intervals for samples of Example 1.

At page 36, line 3, after the description of Figure 15 as amended above, please amend the next paragraph as follows:

(Amended) Figure [14] 16 is a table of physical property results for Examples 3-6.

At page 36, line 4, after the description of Figure 16 as amended above, please amend the next paragraph as follows:

(Amended) Figure [15] 17 is a table of physical property results for Examples 7-10.

At page 36, line 4, after the description of Figure 17 as amended above, insert the following descriptions of new Figures 18 and 19:

Figure 18 depicts an apertured hydrophobic web superposed over a basesheet according to the present invention.

Figure 19 depicts an apertured basesheet having protrusions about the apertures, the basesheet further comprising hydrophobic matter on the most elevated portions of the basesheet.

At page 54, line 15, insert the following two paragraphs describing new Figures 18 and 19:

FIG. 18 depicts a perspective view of a fibrous nonwoven web 60 comprising apertures 61, as in FIG. 14, except that the apertured web 60 is now shown joined to a textured basesheet 1 and the assembly is in contact with an underlying absorbent core 5. Apertures 61 in the nonwoven web 60 are substantially aligned with the depressed regions 4 of the basesheet 1. The nonwoven web 60 serves as a hydrophobic matter 2 on the most elevated portions 3 of the basesheet 1.

FIG. 19 depicts a cross-sectional view of an apertured basesheet 1 similar to that of the basesheet 1 of FIG. 5 except that the perforations 27 (apertures in the basesheet) have been formed in a manner that creates protrusions 70 extending from the lower portion of the basesheet and surrounding the apertures 70. The protrusions 70 can be wet resilient if formed in a moist state and dried.

Due to changes in pagination of the specification required by the foregoing insertions, a substitute (clean) copy of the entire specification reflecting all the foregoing amendments is enclosed.

In The Drawings

Add new Figures 18 and 19, enclosed.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-37 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed thereby.

Claims 38 and 39 are retained.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

38. (Amended) A method for producing an absorbent article comprising the steps of:
- a) preparing a wet resilient, cellulosic basesheet having elevated and depressed regions with an Overall Surface Depth of at least 0.2 mm. and having an upper surface and a lower surface;
 - b) integrally attaching a contiguous, fibrous nonwoven web having a plurality of openings onto the upper surface of the cellulosic basesheet such that a portion of the openings are superposed over the depressed regions of the cellulosic basesheet;
 - c) attaching the lower surface of the basesheet to an absorbent core and an impervious web, such that the absorbent core is sandwiched between the impervious web and the basesheet.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet is a wet-laid tissue sheet.
41. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet is an airlaid structure.
42. (New) The method of claims 38 wherein the basesheet is further characterized by a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.7 or greater.
43. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the basesheet is further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less.
44. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet has an In-Plane Permeability of at least $0.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$, and a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 cc/g or greater.
45. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising hydrophobic matter on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.
46. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or less while dry and an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.3 mm or greater when wetted to a moisture content of 100%.
47. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet has a wet:dry tensile ratio of at least 0.1.
48. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said elevated regions comprise from 5 to 300 protrusions per square inch having a characteristic height of at least 0.2 mm relative to said depressed regions.
49. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising superabsorbent particles attached to said basesheet.

50. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet is further characterized by a wet:dry tensile strength ratio of at least about 0.1 or greater and a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.55 or greater.
51. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the basesheet is further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less, said basesheet further comprising about 20% or greater by weight high yield pulp fibers.
52. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said basesheet further comprises apertures and said lower surface of the basesheet further comprises wet-resilient protrusions adjacent said aperture.

A clean version of the pending claims is attached.

Remarks

Claims 38-52 are pending in this application. Claims 38 and 39 were cancelled in the parent application pursuant to a restriction requirement as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim 38 has been amended to add a word missed in the original filing.

Newly-added claims 40-52 substantially correspond to dependent claims as originally filed in parent application 09/353,278.

Changes to the specification and drawings correspond to amendments made in the parent application 09/353,278.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-3616.

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. CHEN ET AL.

By: 

Gregory E. Croft

Registration No.: 27,542

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I, Judy Garot, hereby certify that on January 8, 2002 this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above with an "Express Mail" Mailing Label Number of ET791925841US and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: 

Judy Garot

Clean Version Of Pending Claims

38. (Amended) A method for producing an absorbent article comprising the steps of:
- a) preparing a wet resilient, cellulosic basesheet having elevated and depressed regions with an Overall Surface Depth of at least 0.2 mm. and having an upper surface and a lower surface;
 - b) integrally attaching a contiguous, fibrous nonwoven web having a plurality of openings onto the upper surface of the cellulosic basesheet such that a portion of the openings are superposed over the depressed regions of the cellulosic basesheet;
 - c) attaching the lower surface of the basesheet to an absorbent core and an impervious web, such that the absorbent core is sandwiched between the impervious web and the basesheet.

39. A method for producing an intake material for an absorbent article, comprising the steps of:
- a) forming an embryonic paper web from an aqueous slurry of papermaking fibers;
 - b) through-drying the embryonic paper web on a three-dimensional through-drying fabric having a pattern of elevated and depressed regions;
 - c) completing the drying of the web;
 - d) aperturing a nonwoven web by means of hydroentangling, wherein the nonwoven web overlays a carrier fabric having substantially the same pattern of elevated and depressed regions as the through-drying fabric of step (b);
 - e) joining the apertured nonwoven web with the through-dried paper web such that the apertures of the nonwoven web are substantially aligned with the depressed regions of the through-dried paper web.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: F. J. Chen et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group No: Unknown

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For: **DUAL-ZONED ABSORBENT WEBS**

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" label number: ET791925838US

Date of deposit: January 8, 2002

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

Sixty-five (65) Pages of Substitute (Clean) Specification

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Judy Garot

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